(c) what is the expected usage of copper during 2006-07 and 2007-08 as compared to previous year and its sources of availability;

(d) whether the country has surplus copper for exports; and

(e) if so, the details of exports projected for 2006-07 and 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) There has been growth of about 6% in the usage of copper in India However, due to difference in consumption pattern per capita usage in India is less as compared to the usage in developed countries.

(c) The usage of copper during 2005-06 was 3,48,100 MT. The excepted usage of copper during 2006-07 and 2007-08 is estimated at 4,40,000 MT and 4,70,000 MT respectively. This demand can be met by domestic production.

(d) and (e) It is expected that about 3,50,000 MT and 4,00,000 MT of refined copper is likely to be available for export during 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Performance in Basic Sciences

*292. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's performance in basic sciences has come down in terms of percentage of contribution to world science and research;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to develop science and technology;

(c) whether Government have planned to set up a separate parallel mechanism for scientific and higher educational institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) While performance of India in basic sciences, as measured by research papers published in cited journals, has been slowly increasing in absolute terms over the past twenty five years (from 14983 in 1980 to 19448 in 2005) its share as percentage of world publications in the basic sciences has declined from 2.9% in 1980 to 1.9% in 2005 However, in the last 10 years, it has increased from 1.5% to 1.9 %.

(b) The major reason behind this phenomenon is decline of research in the university sector. Universities are the mainstay of research in basic sciences all over the world, but, in our country, universities have been suffering because of a varierty of financial and governance problems leading to, among other things, depletion of faculty and impoverishment of research infrasturcture. Most universities fall in the domain of State Governments and they need to address the problems urgently. The Government of India, on its part, has taken a number of steps to rejuvenate and promote scientific research in universities and other scientific institutes of excellence. The Plan Allocation of scientific departments has been doubled from about Rs.12000 crore in the IX Plan to about Rs. 25000 crore in the X Plan and it is planned to increase it further in the XI Plan. The Research Infrastructure programme of DST is a targeted programme to upgrade the laboratory infrastructure in universities and other higher educational institutions. Several institutions, centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas have also been established; for example, in the areas of Brain Research, Marine Biotechnology, Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering, Soft Computing, Water Resources Development, Nanophosphors, Display Technology, Fuel Cell Technoloy, Ultrafast Processes, Protein Research, etc. More recently, two new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been set up at Kolkata and Pune which, apart from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research , would offer M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment. Various agencies of Government of India have now attractive scholarship, fellowship and research support schemes for scientific manpower of all ages starting right from the school level.

The Government has also started some novel programmes to make our higher educational institutions professionally even more useful for developing technology. The DST programme of manpower development in collaboration with industry enhances the quality of technical education and makes it relevant for the industry through well-designed courses developed in close association with participating industries. A large network of S&T Entrepreneurship Parks and Technology Business Incubators has been established to synergize the technical expertise of engineering institutions and the commercial spirit of enterpreneurs for technology development and commercialization. A large number of technology development projects are now being jointly undertaken by

higher educational institutions and industries. All these are strong pointers towards improvement in indigenous capabilities for technology development.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bill regarding Right to Education

†*293. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized the draft of the Bill related to 'Right to Education';

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken regarding the implementation of this Bill in the country after passing it in the Parliament; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) A draft Model Bill on Right to Education, to be adopted by the States, containing provisions relating to the Child's right to free and compulsory education of equitable quality, responsibility of the State and appropriate governments etc., has been circulated recently to the Central Ministries/Departments concerned and the State Governments for their comments.

Vocational Training Centres in Madhya Pradesh

†*294. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA:: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that at present 10 vocational training centres are being operated in co-operation with Central Government in Madhya Pradesh;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.